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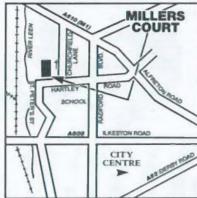


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BY NEAL HOOK



IN commercial terms, there's no doubt that the play-offs are an attractive bonus but in all other respects it's a big disappointment to have our season extended in this way.

When you consider that we finished seven points clear of Tranmere and there was the massive gap of 18 points between Bolton and ourselves, it will be a major injustice if we don't eventually claim a place in the Second Division.

But we have to face facts and although we have never been in favour of the play-off system, I have to admit that we voted for it at the time — as part of the 10-point package put forward as a means of keeping the 92 clubs together.

Bolton must be delighted to find themselves with an equal chance of gaining promotion and no doubt we would feel the same way if the roles were reversed.

But not all is as it might appear with the play-offs and although every penny is welcome in our current financial situation, these matches are certainly not the money-spinner you might imagine — despite the big crowd at Burnden Park and another expected tonight.

Fifty per cent of the takings from each game go into a pool to be shared among the clubs not involved in the play-offs and the remaining 50 per cent from our games with Bolton is shared among the competing clubs in our play-off section.

In our view, that system should be changed because it cannot be right that the club finishing bottom of the Third Division should share in our success.

We felt that way when we were in the same situation two years ago and although we didn't complain, we now intend putting a proposal for change at the next Regional Meeting and if there is enough support, will table a motion at a future League General Meeting.

At the end of the day, the proposal will probably be thrown out because the majority of clubs will always vote for a guaranteed small slice rather than gamble on picking up a big slice.

But it seems natural to us that the clubs who earn the right to take part in the play-offs should gain the rewards — and our objections also stretch to playing the final at Wembley.

In that instance, 50 per cent of the takings will go into the pool and the remainder will be shared between the competing clubs but what disturbs us is the fact that the finals were arranged at Wembley without consulting the clubs.

I know it offers a great day out for supporters but not only would the 'old' system of a two-legged final have been more lucrative to the clubs, it would also have been far better for football.

A two-legged final offers the potential of two big crowds plus the commercial spin-offs like programme sales, catering and match-sponsorship — benefits which are now being handed to Wembley Stadium.

I understand that the League are paying £500,000 to Wembley for use of the stadium during the weekend of the finals and that's hard-earned money which will be totally lost to football.

If the League wanted to stage one-off finals, we feel they should have been banging on the door of places like Villa Park and Old Trafford because by doing it that way, at least the money would have stayed in the game.

Serious thought must be given to the matter before arrangements are made for next season but meanwhile, we are all looking forward to a trip to Wembley — and I just hope that justice is done!



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Warrack writes



I GET the feeling that many people see it as a formality that we are on our way to Wembley but I assure you that nothing could be further from the truth.

There was much to be pleased about in Sunday's performance and result at Burnden Park and in the end, I thought we were unlucky not to bring a lead back to Meadow Lane.

But the reality of the situation is that we didn't do so — and that means Bolton are just as well placed as us to claim a place in the promotion play-off final.

It's vital that we understand that and face up to the challenge in the right frame of mind but providing we do, I'm optimistic that we can complete the job tonight and move a step closer to fulfilling our ambitions.

With respect to Bolton, the play-offs are fine if you finish in sixth position in the League but it does seem strange that we find ourselves in this situation after finishing 18 points in front of them.

If someone had told me at the start of the season that we could have 87 points on the final day, I would have gladly accepted the offer — knowing that Sheffield United were automatically promoted with 84 points last season.

With that in mind, it's hardly surprising that I feel there is a sense of injustice but don't get the impression that we are feeling sorry for ourselves because that's certainly not the case.

On the contrary, since it was established that we would be involved in the play-offs, the players have knuckled down and prepared thoroughly for the challenge of getting what we deserve — a place in the Second Division.

This being our final home game of the season, I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the players and staff of thanking you most sincerely for the tremendous support you have given us.

We've all made mistakes. Each and every player has been responsible for losing us points at one level or another and I certainly have. But those errors have stemmed from the best of intentions and without making mistakes, you cannot hope to learn and improve.

Irrespective of what happens over the next couple of weeks, I'm convinced that we have learned a lot during the course of the season and considering the number of players we have brought in, they have gelled together much quicker than I could have expected.

Even so, the best is yet to come and with the tremendous team spirit which exists at Meadow Lane, coupled with your magnificent support, that can only auger well for the future.

Please get behind the lads tonight. The atmosphere you created at Burnden Park was tremendous and if you can do the same tonight it could make all the difference in our bid to reach Wembley.

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Diary Page



TUE

MAY

1

WED
MAY

2

THUR
MAY

3

FRI
MAY

4

SAT
MAY

5

SUN
MAY

6

MON
MAY

7

David Norton, who had damaged a shoulder during his appearance as a substitute at Wigan the previous Saturday, was at the head of the queue for treatment but he was expected to be available for selection for the game at Reading.

In a season packed with transfer activity, we surpassed ourselves by signing no less than six new players! As reward to the second-year YTS trainees who had done so well in the youth team, five of them were promoted to the ranks of professionals. They were Antony Thompson, Richard Walker, Steve Aldridge, Mark Wells and Craig Finch and terms were also agreed with Shaune Brown, the former Forest youngster.

Mark Draper was recalled to the squad for the trip to Reading and although Neil Warnock fielded an unchanged team, the young midfielder was handed one of the substitute's places. We needed victory to maintain our hopes of claiming an automatic promotion spot and although Kevin Bartlett edged us in front, a last-minute equaliser meant we were destined for a place in the play-offs.

News that Neil Warnock had been named as "Manager of the Month" was partial compensation for failing to beat Reading and provided a boost to everyone as we prepared for our fifth match in the space of 12 days.

With the pressure relieved, the players turned on a performance against Mansfield which in some ways was as good as any they have produced this season. Gary Lund and Phil Turner pointed the way to a 4-2 success before Tommy Johnson clinched the points with a two-goal blast which took his season's tally to a remarkable 18.

All the players then moved on to Beechdale Baths to support the annual sponsored swim, organised by the New Appeals Organisation for the City of Nottingham – but they left it to the YTS trainees to take to the water.

Bolton made contact to organise ticket arrangements for the play-offs and agreed that they would send us an allocation of 550 seats.

The first-team squad set off for Scarborough for a welcome three-day break but some of the senior lads had to remain behind as the Reserves prepared for two home matches which would decide whether they remained in Division One of the Pontins League.

TUE
MAY

8

WED
MAY

9

Tickets went on sale at Meadow Lane for the following Sunday's game at Bolton – and business was brisk. In the evening, Coventry provided the opposition for the Reserves and they suffered the disappointment of being held to a 2-2 draw by a late equaliser when victory was the only result that would retain their hopes of survival. Nicky Law and Mark Draper were on target for us, after we had fallen a goal behind.

The Lifeline "Sportsman of the Year" function took place at the Meadow Club and the players returned from their break in North Yorkshire in time to support the event – and announce their choice of "Players Player of the Year".



DAVID NORTON



GARY LUND

FORWARD PLANNER

Monday, 21st May

Notts County Player of the Year
Meadow Club

Wednesday, 23rd May

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Sunday, 27th May

3rd Division play-off Final
Wembley Stadium

Wednesday, 30th May

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5 YEARS

Bolton and Notts have so much in common that tonight's promotion play-off decider is between two of the Football League's oldest rivals.

Notts were founded in 1862, Bolton in 1874.

Whoever emerges as winners on aggregate tonight face a Wembley final on Sunday week, a poignant reminder that, when these two clubs met in the FA Cup Final in the long ago of 1894, it was before the Empire Stadium had even been thought about!

County were in the Second Division and, as Wanderers were in the First, they were favourites to lift the trophy. It was County's second Final appearance, for they had lost narrowly to Blackburn Rovers in 1891. Now — at Everton's Goodison Park ground — it was to be a different story, as Jimmy Logan struck a brilliant hat-trick in County's 4-1 win.

It was the first time the FA Cup had come to Nottingham and Logan, hero of the victory, had been secured from Aston Villa for (wait for it) . . . £15!

10 YEARS

All told, Bolton have appeared in seven FA Cup finals, of which they have won four, the latest in 1958 when Nat Lofthouse put two goals past Manchester United to take the Cup to Burnden Park.

Either side of the second world war, Wanderers spent 22 consecutive seasons in the First Division between 1936 and 1964. Their first taste of Third Division football came in 1971-72 and was to last only two years. When they were promoted, at the end of the 1972-73 season, the club which went up with them was . . . Notts County.

There are many, like me, who remember that extraordinary season. County's early form was so erratic that at Christmas they had won only eight Third Division fixtures, which included a 1-0 win over Bolton, in the first home match of the season. Don Masson hit the second half decider.

30 YEARS

Then, against Watford on Boxing Day, Notts scraped a 1-0 win thanks to an own goal by visiting defender Colin Franks. They went to Bolton for the last match of the year, seeking to prove whether the win was a fluke or a turning point.

Two down at half-time, to goals by John Byrom and Freddie Lee, Notts staged a storming second half revival and after Brian Stubbs had reduced the arrears, Les Bradd snatched the equaliser. The New Year brought Notts five straight wins and, having been in 17th League place at Christmas, they battled to finish second.

Five years later, Bolton returned to the First Division by carrying off the Second Division championship, narrowly ahead of Southampton and Spurs, who were also promoted. Notts spent most of that season fighting against relegation and Bolton drew at Meadow Lane, having already won on their own ground, successes plotted by a manager who was to become well known in these parts — Ian Greaves.



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Down the

IT'S tempting fate to talk about Wembley but this is our last opportunity to pass on information about the provisional plans we have made for what promises to be one of the most memorable days in our history.

The Third Division play-off final will take place on Sunday May 27th with a 3pm kick off and once tonight's game has been decided, the Football League will immediately despatch 25,000 tickets to the winners.

They will be priced at £16, £14, £12, £10 and £8 with Family Enclosure tickets costing £14 and £12.

Should we manage to clinch our first-ever trip to Wembley, the tickets will go on general sale at Meadow Lane on Saturday and the office will also be open on Sunday morning.

Incidentally, we understand that should more tickets be needed, they will be made available to us and it would be nice to think that a further application would have to be made.

Arrangements have already been made to run a special train which, if required, will go direct from Midland Station to Wembley. It will provide seats for 642 supporters with tickets available direct from Meadow Lane at a cost of £16.

We have also made plans for numerous coaches and depending on the demand for places, it may be possible to run more than one special train.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WE have now accepted our invitation to send the youth team to Yugoslavia at the start of next season — thanks to the support of one of our box holders.

Neil Shacklock Plumbers and Heating Engineers have responded to our appeal for help in paying for the trip and it means that Mick Walker's lads will be rewarded for their five season with a trip to Rijeka.

They will fly the flag for England at the annual Kvarnerska Rivijera — an under-21 tournament which starts on August 27th and lasts for six days.

Said Walker: "It will be tremendous experience for the lads and they owe a big debt of gratitude to Neil Shacklock because without the help of his company, we wouldn't have been able to make the trip."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TOMMY JOHNSON is rooting for more than one group of Magpies tonight because he's already making plans for a memorable weekend in London.

Despite rejecting an offer to join the St James's Park staff as a YTS trainee, the young Geordie has always been an ardent Newcastle United fan and will be anxious to discover their result against Sunderland when more important matters have been dealt with tonight.

And he said: "What a weekend it would be if I could go to Wembley and help us clinch promotion — then stay on and watch Newcastle book their place in the First Division the following day!

"Apart from going on the team coach to Fulham and Brentford this season, I've never even been to London so that would make it very special."



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THE cameras are still rolling, of course, but once our fate has been decided, a video will go on sale in the Commercial Department with full coverage of another eventful year at Meadow Lane.

"Come on You Pies" will feature more than 100 goals and you will be able to decide for yourself about Phil Stant's controversial disallowed effort against Bristol Rovers from a camera position behind the goal.

That's just one of many incidents covered in the unique television footage and Neil Warnock will also give his view of the season.

Full details are available from the Commercial Department but the cost of the video will be £17.50 — or £15.75 if you are a Lifeline member, season-ticket holder, box holder, lottery agent or member of the Family Magpies or Supporters Club.



NEIL WARNOCK was among the honours again last week when he went to London to receive the April "Manager of the Month" award at the Barclays Bank Dinner on Friday.

It was his second award of the season, of course, and came at the end of a remarkable month which saw us play nine matches — and emerge with six victories and three draws.

Said the manager: "The players did the club proud during that period by finding reserves of energy which I would not have believed possible. I was delighted to pick up the award but it was the lads who earned it."



IF you haven't yet made plans for your summer holiday, how about spending a few days at sunny Meadow Lane!

As usual at this time of the year, we are on the look out for volunteers to help carry out maintenance work and the many painting jobs so that we can smarten up the place before the start of next season.

If you are able to help, please contact Chief Executive Neal Hook and although we cannot afford to pay you, we can guarantee a good cup of tea.



MASCOTS ★ MASCOTS ★ MASCOTS ★ MASCOTS ★

Leading the Magpies out for tonights' important game is James Olner Silverman who is just 5 years old. James attends the Grosvenor Boys School in Edwalton and in this photograph of him he's wearing the school uniform — he looks smart but we think the Notts County replica kit looks much better! James likes swimming and playing football and is one of few 5 year olds who actually likes eating vegetables. This is only James' fifth visit to Meadow Lane this season but we hope that he'll enjoy himself so much tonight he'll become a Meadow Lane regular. We all hope you enjoy yourself tonight James.



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Dear Mr Warnock,

Now that we have come to an end of the Third Divisions 'compulsory programme' I feel the time is right for me to send my first ever letter on matters relating to the team.

Despite the obvious disappointments of missing out on automatic promotion and the Freight Rover Final, we really ought to put things in perspective. Quite simply, we are now the best remaining club in the division. We have absolutely nothing to fear from any of the play-off sides as we've shown in recent meetings with the two Bristol Clubs and others. They are the ones who will be worrying about us and, if the lads show anything like their recent form, then promotion – and that dream trip to Wembley – will both become a reality.

It must have been a temptation for you to rest a few weary legs against Mansfield, when there was little more than pride to play for . . . but pride itself is reason enough!!! When there are thousands of us who would die for the club in that jersey, then its only reasonable that we should expect – and usually get – that level of commitment from the players. By opting to field a first choice eleven, you obviously saw the need to keep the momentum going and the players responded magnificently. It was a thoroughly professional end-of-season performance which bodes well for the future.

Love 'em or hate 'em its up to us to help you finish the job in the Play offs. I have my own theory about them – if we have to stage them, then the team finishing third should have a goal start for every point they finish above their play-off opponents! It would be nice to go to Bolton with an 18 goal cushion!! We'd be 7-0 up over Tranmere, or 13-0 up over Bury, before kicking off against either of them at Wembley. It's all daft I admit, but it's just a way of showing what a ridiculous farce these play-offs are. The biggest slap in the face we can offer the Football League is to win it and show them that the 3rd placed club deserved their promotion on merit in the first place.

I'm in my 21st season of following Notts and, as you'll be aware from the club's history, it's had its ups and downs! My first match (or debut) was an instantly forgettable Division 4 affair against Southend in 1969. I've experienced the joy of three promotions and the despair of relegation from Division 1 to 3 in successive seasons. Losing the Anglo-Scottish Cup Final to Chesterfield was bad enough, but missing out on Wembley (to Wolves first and now to Bristol was even worse). I was among about 200 diehards who made the depressing trip to Sunderland to see an end to our First Division days, a point from a goalless draw being insufficient to keep us up in the big time. Twelve months later, on the final day of the season, I was a member of a 2,000 strong Notts following at Fulham which failed to roar the

team on to the three points we needed to avoid the dreaded drop yet again. In our last attempt at the play-offs, I was there again at Walsall as one of the few who genuinely thought we could win, after losing the home leg 1-3. We won 1-0 on the night and had enough chances to have wrapped it up on aggregate as well!! The Wolves defeat was hardest to swallow – I cut a holiday short in Australia, flew back on the day of the match and rounded-off a 36-hr journey by getting the train up to Wolves from Heathrow, only to see us get stuffed 3-0!! I only had to catch the bus against Bristol Rovers . . . but it still didn't make me feel any better!!!

Mr Warnock, before I go too far away from the point, let me emphasise this – I have seen far better Notts County sides, far better players in every Notts shirt, but I have never, ever seen a Notts team with as much character and commitment as this one. That's why I could never point an accusing finger, even if we did miss out in the play-offs. If the players give everything, I can't ask for more. I can accept mistakes, but not lack of effort. I don't think we'll be lacking in that quality at Burnden Park and I am totally convinced that all we have to do is carry on as we have lately to wrap up that promotion place.

As a final point, I don't usually go in for individual praise, preferring to congratulate the whole team, but I think I've a special case in offering my thanks to Phil Robinson. Phil Turner has been a model of consistency all season and set a tremendous example as captain, but I think his Midfield partner deserves his share of the credit too. Phil Robinson is very much the unsung hero. Many spectators fail to appreciate this overall contribution, not purely in the middle of the park, but also when going forward . . . and particularly when dropping off for the full-backs and filling the gap to allow the defenders to attack down the flanks. I'm pleased that Gary Lund has so far proved to be as ideal foil for Kevin Bartlett and with Johnson, Chapman and Stant around, we've got no shortage of options upfront!

So, my very best wishes to you and all the staff. Thanks for all the effort this season. I'm sure that if you can pick yourselves up for one final push, we'll be looking forward to visiting West Ham & Co next season!! Like a few thousand others, I'm firing myself up for the trip to Burnden Park (and hopefully Wembley!) and at least I won't need to fly half the way round the world to cheer the lads on this time!!!

Regards, Neil Brennan, Hine Hall, Mapperley.



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In Charge...

PHIL NEAL is aiming to follow a distinguished playing career by enjoying a successful time in management — and he's not made a bad start, despite having to battle through some difficult times early on.

The former Liverpool and England full back had his fair share of critics after taking over as Bolton manager in 1985, but the outlook now looks much brighter for Wanderers and their manager.

He guided them to the Sherpa Van Trophy Final at Wembley last season, where they beat Fourth Division Torquay United 4-1, and he has followed that by leading them to the play-offs.

Neal won every major domestic honour as well as European medals during his long spell as Liverpool's right back and apart from making 455 League appearances, he was also capped 50 times by England.



REGARDLESS of whether the play-offs eventually provide a passport to the Second Division, Bolton Wanderers will be able to spend their summer reflecting on another season of progress.

There's still a long way to go before they return to those happy days when they could proudly boast that they were one of the top clubs in the country.

But progress has been the name of the game in recent years and after winning promotion from the Fourth Division two years ago, then collecting the Sherpa Van Trophy last season after re-establishing themselves in the Third, they've continued to climb the soccer ladder.

In fact, there must have been a feeling of disappointment about having to secure a point at Swansea to clinch their place in the play-offs because for much of the season, Wanderers were well placed for a top-two finish.

After completing last season with an unbeaten run of 16 matches, they were back in the groove in August and lost only two of their first 16 games — including a 2-1 defeat at Meadow Lane — of this campaign.

It seemed at that stage that their remarkable consistency would be the key to more success but when the time came to pick up the pace and push for more glory, Bolton struggled to respond.

The main problem was that they ran out of goals and although Tony Phillipskirk continued to grab his share, they managed to hit the target just 11 times in their final 15 outings.

Only three victories were recorded in that period but we are fully aware that Wanderers, well-organised and with some talented performers, will be formidable opponents.

That point was hammered home when we went to Burnden Park in March and were crushed 3-0 — but Neal and his men will be equally aware that times have changed for us.

Charlie Palmer and Craig Short missed that trip to Lancashire through suspension while Kevin Bartlett and Dean Thomas were yet to arrive on the scene — and they provide four good reasons why we are optimistic about clinching a Wembley place.

Here's a run-down of the players we expect to be facing tonight:

DAVID FELGATE — The 30-year-old goalkeeper is in his second spell at Bolton after starting his career as a Burnden Park apprentice. Moved to Lincoln and then Grimsby before returning to Bolton.

PHIL BROWN — The South Shields-born full back has proved to be a fine investment since his £17,000 transfer from Halifax in 1988 and took over as club captain last season after an impressive arrival.

BARRY COWDRILL — A versatile player who can operate either at full back or in midfield. Joined Bolton from West Brom in July 1988 after making 100 appearances in an eight year spell at the Hawthorns.

SCOTT GREEN — A £50,000 signing from Derby County, the 20-year-old can operate in midfield or up front and has made an immediate impact. Failed to make a first team appearance while at the Baseball Ground.

MARK CAME — The 28-year-old central defender quickly forced his way into Bolton's first team after joining them from non-League Winsford United but missed almost all of last season with a broken leg.

MARK WINSTANLEY — Central defender who emerged through the club's youth ranks and became a regular during the promotion campaign in 1988. Was Bolton's "Player of the Year" last season.

STUART STORER — A winger who shot to prominence when he was involved in a double deal which took Wayne Clarke to Everton. Started his career with Mansfield Town and has also had a spell at Wigan on loan.

DAVID REEVES — An £80,000 signing from Sheffield Wednesday last summer, the 22-year-old striker made 17 first team appearances while at Hillsborough and also had loan spells at Scunthorpe and Burnley.

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Left to Right — Back Row: Dean Crombie, Mark Came, Dave Felgate, Kevin Rose, Gareth Gray, Mark Winstanley, Barry Cowdrill. Middle Row: Steve Carroll (Youth Coach), Gary Brown, Phil Brown, Julian Darby, David Reeves, Tony Philliskirk, Steve Thompson, Stuart Storer, Gary Henshaw, Mike Jeffrey, Ewan Simpson (Physio).

Front Row: Ian Stevens, Neil Fisher, Paul Hughes, Nicky Brookman, Mick Brown (First Team Coach), Phil Neal (Manager), Dave Roberts, Jeff Chandler, Robbie Savage, Nicky Spooner.

TONY PHILLISKIRK — The Sunderland-born striker began his career with Sheffield United where he netted 20 goals in 80 appearances. Joined Wanderers in a £50,000 deal after spells with Rotherham, Oldham and Preston.

JULIAN DARBY — The only Bolton-born player in Wanderers squad after signing for them from school. Can operate in midfield or defence and scored in last year's Sherpa Van Trophy Final against Torquay.

DEAN CROMBIE — Former Lincoln and Grimsby defender who joined Bolton in June 1987 and was a key figure in their 20-match unbeaten run at the end of last season when he was also on target at Wembley.

MIKE JEFFREY — Liverpool-born striker who signed on professional forms after some impressive performances in the reserves side. Made his League debut in March 1989 and promises to be an exciting prospect.

JOHN GREGORY — Former England midfield player who joined Bolton on loan before the transfer deadline after a short spell at Plymouth, having previously been sacked from the manager's job at Portsmouth.

DANGER MAN



STEVE THOMPSON has been a key figure in Bolton's League and Cup success over the past two years — a fact confirmed when he was named in the PFA's Third Division team for this season.

The 25-year-old Oldham-born midfielder progressed through the club's youth ranks to make his League debut in November 1982.

That makes him Wanderers' longest-serving player and he has made over 250 appearances in his time at Burnden Park.

Missed only three games last season when he scored the goal that booked their trip to Wembley in the Sherpa Van Trophy Final and has been influential in their surge to the promotion play-offs this season.

Programme Collectors

CORNER

BY KEITH WORTHINGTON

NOTTS COUNTY v BOLTON WANDERERS F.A. CUP 4th ROUND REPLAY — 5th February 1953

The programme for this fixture was of the traditional size of (5½" x 8½"). It consisted of sixteen pages and cost 3d (1½p). The only photographs were two small black and white ones in the advertisements which took over eight pages of the programme.

This match was an F.A. Cup Replay and the whole of the editorial was used to describe the first match which was a 1-1 draw. Bolton fielded four full internationals including the England leader Nat Lofthouse who scored Bolton's equaliser after Ken McDherson had put the Magpies ahead with what was described as "a wonder goal" — a thirty-five yard shot!

Page 4 of the programme was titled — Personal Pars. It contained snippets about the playing staff — such as — Gordon Bradley is making a good recovery from an injured shoulder and was now back in training, the County players went to Buxton for vapour baths and massage and on Tuesday had nine holes of golf, they are all toned up for todays encounter.

Page five of the programme contained an announcement that Notts had completed arrangements with Derby County to inaugurate floodlights at Meadow Lane and the Baseball Ground with the first match being in Nottingham and the return in Derby. Civic leaders and ideal members of parliament would be invited to attend the matches.

The 'Personal Pars' page stated that if the first game had not ended in a draw the players were to go on a short break to Skegness but with the devastation caused by the recent storms the trip would have been very doubtful in any case. With the east coast storm damage in mind half a page was used to promote a 'flood relief fund' to help the people of the east coast. Members of the WRAC from Chilwell depot would be taking a collection to all parts of the ground. The supporters page also discussed, at length, the situation on the east coast and urged all present to give generously!

The statistics and fixtures were spread through various parts of the program but were very comprehensive for the time. Included in the statistics was a list of leading scorers in Division One and Two. The Division One chart was topped by todays visitors star man — Nat Lofthouse with twenty-three goals. Although the Division Two chart featured 19 players, led by Rowley of Leicester City with 29, there was not a Notts player in the list.

The following pen pictures appeared in the programme you can name the players — answers below.

1.????? Elusive winger who can be a match winner. Has many England caps. Joined Bolton from Preston for £20,000. Previously with Blackburn Rovers.

2.????? Formerly with Huddersfield. Played for England against Scotland in 1951. A schoolmaster by profession. Tall and powerful.

MATCH DETAILS — NOTTS COUNTY 2 v BOLTON WANDERERS 2.

Scorers: Notts, Jackson, McPherson, Bolton, Billy Moir (2).

The second replay was played at Hillsborough with Bolton winning 1-0.



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BY LES BRAADD

Congratulations go to Walter Sheppard of Cotgrave on being the winner of our Agent of the Month prize for May. During the month of April, Walter sold nearly 3,600 lottery tickets as well as maintaining more than 30 weekly members to County Cashline.

Other lucky winners in our May draw for all our lottery and cashline agents were:- D. Smith of Stapleford, Porters Newsagents of Beeston, Lindleys Newsagents of Bramcote, N. Rodwell of West Bridgford, A. Bowley of Totton, Cremorne Hotel of The Meadows, R. Cooling of Southwell, Mrs. Coe of Arnold, R. Bramley of Clifton and Beresford Newsagents of Gedling. They receive the sum of £10 as their prize.

Congratulations to the following lucky winners of our Amateur Club Scheme draw for May:-

£25.00 winners — Boots Crusaders F.C.

£10.00 winners — Pheasant Colts F.C.

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If you are interested in how the scheme operates and how your club can benefit by joining the Notts County Amateur Club Scheme then send for our free brochure c/o County 75, Notts County F.C., Meadow Lane, Nottingham, or ring us on Nottm. 864718 or 865429.

COUNTY CASHLINE

We have recently acquired a number of local businesses that have offered discounts of up to 20% to all members of County Cashline. Members will be issued with an information sheet on where to obtain the benefits together with County Cashline Members Discount Club cards by post from the County 75 office during the coming months.

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From the Dressing Room

BY PHIL ROBINSON

I'VE often read about end of season matches when the players can relax with nothing left to play for . . . and I wonder what they are like!

It's a situation I've never experienced because throughout my time with Aston Villa, Wolverhampton Wanderers and now Notts County, there's always been something at stake.

Three years ago, I was involved in Villa's battle against relegation and although I only played in three League matches, one of them was a defeat by Sheffield Wednesday at Villa Park — which sentenced us to the Second Division.

I moved onto Molineux the following summer and I'm proud to say that I have two medals to show that I helped them to win the Fourth and Third Division Championships in successive seasons.

In fact, I didn't figure too much in the first team during the second half of last season but fortunately, I still managed to get in enough games to qualify for a medal.

For a long time this season, I fancied my chances of adding another to the collection but our inconsistent form early in the New Year cost us the chance of winning the title.

A lot of points disappointingly slipped away during that period but we worked really hard in the past couple of months to get it together again and mount a late challenge for one of the top two places.

We didn't quite make it, of course, but have cause to count ourselves unlucky because in any normal season, a total of 87 points would have been more than enough to clinch promotion.

Instead of going up the "easy" way, we now find ourselves involved in a cup tie against a club who finished 18 points behind us in the League. That's the equivalent to six victories — but is absolutely no guide to the outcome of our game with Bolton.

I well remember that when I moved to Wolves, all the talk was about the same thing because they found themselves in a similar situation the previous year and then missed out on promotion.

They finished the League programme with a nine point gap between themselves and Aldershot but lost to them in the play-offs and Aldershot went on to win promotion.

That must be a warning to us and although the result of our game at Burnden Park is not known at the time of writing, you can take it for granted that we will be doing our best to make sure that justice is eventually seen to be done.

We were hoping that our season would be finished by now but don't get the impression that we are feeling sorry for ourselves. On the contrary, we are full of it at the moment and certainly got the benefit of our three-day break in Scarborough.

It was purely designed to give us chance to relax after the spell of five matches in the space of 12 days and we enjoyed a couple of games of golf — and plenty of laughs.

The serious business started again on Thursday when we returned to Meadow Lane for a tough training session and it was made very clear to us that for the next couple of weeks, we must think about nothing except winning promotion.

The immediate priority is to make sure we do the business against Bolton and with a trip to Wembley as the prize for the winners, what better incentive could any team have?



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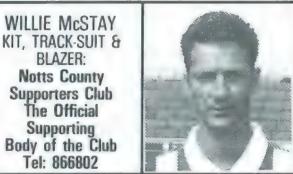
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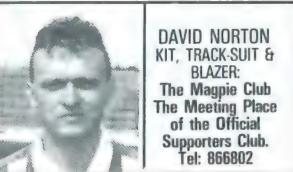


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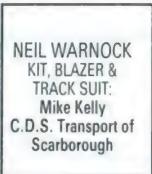
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2	PHIL BROWN
3	BARRY COWDRILL
4	SCOTT GREEN
5	MARK CAME
6	MARK WINSTANLEY
7	STUART STORER
8	STEVE THOMPSON
9	DAVID REEVES
10	TONY PHILLISKIRK
11	JULIAN DARBY
SUB1	
SUB2	

REFEREE:

Mr. R. F. NIXON

Robert Nixon is from West Kirby, Wirral and is a Bank Manager. He is married with two children, Julie and Jonathan. A very experienced referee who commenced in 1966 through to the Football League 'middle' in 1981. When not refereeing Robert enjoys cross country running, golf and gardening. We would like to welcome Mr. Nixon, Mr. Bullivant, Mr. Horswell and Mr. Simpson to Meadow Lane for tonights game.

LINESMEN:

Mr. M. K. MULLIVANT, from Cambridge. (Red Trim).

Mr. R. J. HORSWELL, from Repton. (Yellow Trim).

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PRIZE GUYS

Pictured on this page is Phil Turner being presented with his Sportsman of the Year Lifeline Trophy by Angela Ackroyd the current "Miss Notts County". In a poll of nearly 800 Lifeline members Phil ran out the winner closely followed by Dean Yates. Well done Phil and thank you to the players for all you help 'off the field'.

The other awards on the night went as follows.

Reserve Sportsman of the Year, Kevin Blackwell; Young Sportsman of the Year, John Brough; Player's Player of the Year, Craig Short; Best Dressed Man, Charlie Palmer and Worst Dressed Man, Nicky Platnauer.

Apologies to Nicky Platnauer, but someone had to win, and we understand that you were the only one out of the room when the players voted. We certainly do not think the award was justified – there are many worse around the place.

HAVE A GOOD SUMMER

As this is the last article of the season, everyone from Lifeline would like to wish you a good summer and hope to see you next August. During the Summer the draws will take place live on Gem AM each Saturday – be sure to listen.

If you have any queries or suggestions during the next couple of months please contact Joan Sales at the Lifeline Office who will be pleased to help you.

The next Lifeline Newsletter will be with you in early July.



GET YOUR SHARE

Derek Pavis has generously donated some of his shares of the Football Club as an incentive to boost Lifeline membership. For each 5 new members you sign up you will be issued with 1 share and for each 10 new members you will receive 5 shares. Shareholders are, of course, unique and as well as receiving a set of annual accounts, they are also entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Full details are available from the Lifeline Office.

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Reserves Report

HOLIDAY CLUB

PONTIN'S

LEAGUE

BY WAYNE JONES

SO IT WASN'T to be. There was no Houdini act and we return to Pontin's League Division Two after one season of mixed fortunes in the top flight.

Although there was a glimmer of hope that we could avoid relegation from Division One by winning our last two matches by a substantial margin, it was always an unlikely prospect that we could pull it off and survive.

We always knew it was going to be tough, but what makes it so disappointing is that we made a flying start to the season, winning four of our first six matches and drawing another, and we felt that if we could pick up points here and there along the way, we would be able to hang on.

The experience has been a good one for the younger players though, and I am sure it has helped them in their learning process. That is illustrated by the fact that six of them have now been offered professional terms.

There is quite a bit gulf between the First and Second Divisions, and all too often the sides that go up one year, come down the next.

That was the case this time around. We were promoted along with Hull City, Bradford City and Oldham Athletic last season, but all four teams have now made a swift return to the Second Division.

Our fate was sealed last Tuesday evening when a late equaliser from Darren Dickson gave Coventry City a 2-2 draw at Meadow Lane.

Through the thick smoke that engulfed the ground during the first half, we managed to claw our way back after falling a goal behind to Colin Greenman when he capitalised on a mistake by Nicky Law.

It was Law who redeemed himself on the stroke of half time by somehow squeezing a Don O'Riordan free kick into the net from an acute angle and Mark Draper fired us in front twelve minutes from the end.

The late equaliser was a bitter blow, but a point from the Coventry game was a satisfactory outcome, because they were First Division opposition and they possess a strong reserve side.

If there has been one particularly disappointing aspect of our season, it has been the fact that we have saved most of our best performances for away matches, and the loyal supporters who have followed our fortunes at Meadow Lane, have not seen much to cheer about.

Unfortunately, that was the story in our final game when we were beaten 3-0 by the Pontin's champions Liverpool. They may have fielded what looked a weak side on paper, but I can assure you that no side sent out by the Anfielders is a weak one and even though they had already captured the title, they were clearly determined to finish on a high note.

They achieved that quite comfortably with Russell Payne sweeping home a shot to put them ahead in the 36th minute when they caught us on the break.

And the issue was settled by two goals in the space of a minute midway through the second half when Payne added his second and then David Magilton struck the third from a free kick.

The team on duty on against Coventry and Liverpool was: Blackwell, McStay, Thompson, Norton, Law, O'Riordan, Matthews, Tong, Stant, Chapman, Draper. Subs: Browne, Duckers.

FIXTURES

LIA

			LIA
Aug 24	BRADFORD CITY	H	2-1
Sept 6	Hull City	A	3-2
Sept 12	BLACKBURN ROVERS	H	4-2
Sept 19	Coventry City	A	3-5
Sept 27	Oldham Athletic	A	2-2
Oct 3	LEEDS UNITED	H	1-0
Oct 10	Manchester City	A	0-5
Oct 18	ASTON VILLA	H	0-6
Oct 24	SHEFFIELD UNITED	H	0-4
Oct 30	Newcastle United	A	0-4
Nov 7	Liverpool	A	1-3
Nov 15	LEICESTER CITY	H	2-2
Nov 21	HUDDERSFIELD T	H	2-1
Nov 29	Manchester United	A	1-2
Dec 5	Derby County	A	3-1
Dec 13	EVERTON	H	1-4
Dec 20	Nottingham Forest	A	3-3
Jan 2	HULL CITY	H	1-3
Jan 17	Bradford City	A	4-2
Jan 31	Blackburn Rovers	A	2-2
Feb 7	Huddersfield Town	A	0-2
Feb 14	MANCHESTER UTD	H	1-1
Feb 20	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	0-0
Feb 27	Leeds United	A	0-3
Mar 7	MANCHESTER CITY	H	0-2
Mar 12	Aston Villa	A	0-5
Mar 20	Sheffield United	A	3-3
Mar 27	NEWCASTLE UNITED	H	0-2
Apr 3	DERBY COUNTY	H	0-6
Apr 11	Everton	A	1-0
Apr 18	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	H	5-0
Apr 30	Leicester City	A	2-2
May 8	COVENTRY CITY	H	2-2
May 10	LIVERPOOL	H	0-3

TOMORROW'S MAN

STEVE SLAWSON is one of the talented youngsters who will be expected to show the benefits of this year's experience and emerge as a key member of the youth team when the players launch a fresh campaign in August.

The young striker rejected an offer of a YTS place at Forest to join our staff and wasted no time in making an impact when he grabbed four goals in the opening four Purley League matches.

That set standards which he could hardly be expected to maintain but Steve shown during the course of the season that he has the potential to follow in the footsteps of Mark Draper and Tommy Johnson – and build a career for himself at Meadow Lane.



BY MICK WALKER

purity

I SUPPOSE it was asking for trouble at the start of the season when I suggested that the youth team were capable of winning all of the four competitions we entered — and not too many people took me seriously.

But I wasn't too far off the mark and although the Purity League Cup is locked away in the trophy cabinet, I honestly feel that we ought to have more to show for our efforts.

In the end, Aston Villa took the Purity League title with 63 points, followed by Leicester on 62 with us on 60 and Derby 59 and since the situation was resolved, I've spent most of my time thinking about the points which slipped away.

Every club can claim that, of course, but when you consider that we beat both Villa and Leicester during the final month of the season, that surely confirms my view that we were as good as any team in the League.

In fact, only once during the course of the League season did we have cause to say that we were well beaten by a better team and that was when Leicester defeated us 3-1 at Meadow Lane.

The same applied in the cup competitions and it's interesting to note that Middlesbrough, who beat us 2-0 in the third round of the F.A. Youth Cup on a night when we missed two penalties, have fought their way through to the final.

I was disappointed that we failed to go further in that competition than ever before in the club's history — and that we made a mess of the home leg against Swindon which cost us a place in the Midland Youth Cup Final.

But it would be wrong to dwell too long on the disappointments because the lads deserve credit for their part in a fine season and as you will be aware, seven of them have been rewarded with professional contracts.

From their point of view, the hard work starts now and over the next three weeks, they will be following a tough training schedule which has been especially designed to build up their strength in preparation for tackling life as a professional footballers.

After that, they will be able to enjoy a break for five weeks — and will need it after a hectic programme which has probably seen them play more games in the season than a Notts County team has ever done.

As for next seasons, standards have been set which will be difficult to maintain. At this stage I would suggest we won't be quite as strong but we do have a good group coming through . . . and their challenge is to prove we wrong.

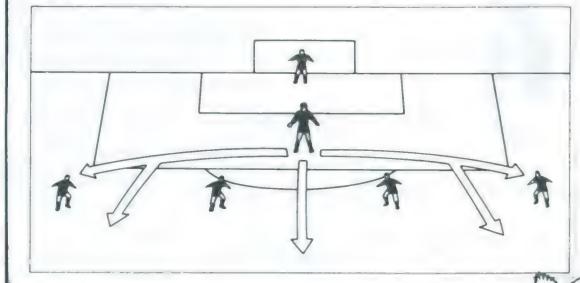
FIXTURES

F A

Aug 19	ASTON VILLA	H	2-2
Aug 26	Mansfield Town	A	3-0
Sept 2	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	H	12-2
Sept 9	Coventry City	A	1-0
Sept 16	Walsall	A	5-1
Sept 23	PORT VALE	H	2-0
Sept 30	SHREWSBURY TOWN	H	3-0
Oct 7	Chesterfield	A	3-2
Oct 14	DERBY COUNTY	H	3-2
Oct 21	Birmingham City	A	1-2
Oct 27	LEICESTER CITY	H	1-3
Nov 4	Nottingham Forest	A	0-2
Nov 11	STOKE CITY	H	0-1
Nov 18	West Bromwich Albion	A	1-1
Nov 25	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	H	1-0
Dec 2	Stoke City (Lge Cup Rd 1)	A	3-1
Dec 16	MANSFIELD TOWN	H	2-1
Dec 23	Aston Villa	A	0-2
Jan 6	Peterborough United	A	1-0
Jan 13	PORT VALE (Lge Cup Rd 2)	H	4-2
Jan 20	Port Vale	A	0-0
Jan 27	WALSALL	H	2-0
Feb 10	CHESTERFIELD	H	3-2
Feb 17	SHREWSBURY TOWN League Cup Semi-Finals	H	2-0
Feb 24	Derby County	A	1-2
Mar 3	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H	2-0
Mar 10	Leicester City	A	3-1
Mar 17	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	H	2-0
Mar 24	Mar 31	A	2-2
Mar 31	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	H	1-1
Apr 14	Shrewsbury Town	A	4-2
Apr 21	Wolverhampton Wanderers	A	2-1
Apr 28	COVENTRY CITY	H	0-0

MICK WALKERS COACHING HINTS

No.26 The Role of Sweeper. Because of the obvious weaknesses of the man-for-man system — if a defender is beaten the goal is immediately threatened and it too easily confines backs to a purely defensive function — one of the back four drops back to cover the other three, each of whom are responsible for marking an opposition forward, to 'sweep' behind the back line. This original concept of the sweeper has undergone many changes, and the term is used somewhat loosely to describe any player who has a wider covering role in defence. This can even include the ball-winning midfielder deployed in front of the back four, detecting danger before it reaches them, cutting out passes, harassing opponents, preventing diagonal runs and plugging any gaps; in short, the ball-winning function frequently employed in Britain, where the genuine sweeper, patrolling behind the back line, is a rarity because of the predominantly zonal systems of marking. Wherever he plays he must be a good reader of the game, anticipating moves, positioning himself to cover colleagues, making timely interceptions. While the older variety of sweeper relied more on his physical qualities in defence, the new breed tends to present a different image: they are tactical perceptive, capable of seeing and playing good long early balls, sensing when to come forward in support undetected by opponents.





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BY ANNETTE CHANTREY

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After the success of our Easter Coaching Course we are now planning another course during the August holidays. It will contain all the ingredients which have made the previous courses so successful, expert coaching, competitions, skills tests and, of course, lots of games of football.

It takes place at our Stoke Lane Training Ground at Stoke Bardolph on Tuesday, 21st August until Thursday, 23rd August from 10.00 a.m. till 3.00 p.m. daily.

Both boys and girls, members and non-members, from 6-16 years are all welcome and on the final afternoon we will make the presentations to the various trophy winners with a momento of the course being presented to each participant.

During the course there will be visits from the Notts County players and the opportunity to watch them in training. Special goalkeeper training will be available during one season for those interested.

The cost for the course is £15.00 for Family Magpie members and £17.50 for non-members, you don't have to pay the full amount when booking – a £5.00 deposit will secure a place with the balance not due until 13th August.

Interested? Then complete the booking form on this page or, if you wish to keep your programme in tact, pick up a form from the General Office or Family Room or phone me on Nottm 861155 for more details.

When booking please make cheques payable to 'Junior Magpies' and send to: Annette Chantrey, Family Magpies, Notts County Football Club, Meadow Lane, Nottingham NG2 3HJ.

'CADBURY WORLD'

We have a few seats available on our trip to 'Cadbury World' on Sunday, 16th September. If you are interested in reserving a place or would like a booking form please contact me as soon as possible.

'ROLLERS'

Due to the lack of response we find it necessary to cancel our visit to 'Rollers' which was scheduled for Monday, 21st May. Anyone who has purchased tickets please return them to me for a refund. It is possible that another visit may be arranged for August if interest improves.

ATTENDANCE CARDS

Those of you who have attendance cards which have been stamped for ever game please write your name on the back of the card and enter it into our prize draw. Prize winner will be notified by post.



Tommy Johnson receives the Family Magpies' Player of the Year award.

BOOKING FORM

Name

Age Mem. No.

Address

Post Code Tel. No.

Please find enclosed deposit/full payment to reserve my place on the Summer Soccer Course. If paying deposit only the balance is requested on or before Monday, 13th August, 1990.

Signature (Parent/Guardian)

Date

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Supporter's Club

BY PETER DENNIS

F.A. CUP PRIZE DRAW

At the time of writing the result of the F.A. Cup Final is not known but the winner of the Supporters Club F.A. Cup Prize Draw will be one of the 26 people listed below. The 26 are the lucky people who were drawn out of the hat and allocated a 'Player' when the draw was held last week.

Tkt No.	Player	Winner
5138	Palace No. 3	Sue Smalley, Aspley
16451	Man. U. No. 7	E.C. Rooke, Kimberley
14210	Palace No. 6	Mrs I. Pendered, Carlton
13874	Man. U. No. 4	D. Carrington, Bulwell
11772	Palace No. 11	Paul Wilkinson, Skegness
8055	Man. U. No. 14	Janice Pilsworth, Derby
1700	Palace No. 7	Lymury & Bird (Solicitors), Shrwd.
10571	Man. U. No. 6	P.N. Richardson, Woodthorpe
19744	Palace No. 2	Mrs C. Hyland, Melton Mowbray
2178	Palace No. 4	K. Stevens, Nottingham
3740	Man. U. No. 3	M. Castledine, Ilkeston
19736	Palace No. 9	Mr J. Hyland, Melton Mowbray
9398	Palace No. 8	J. Kime, Chilwell.
11590	Man. U. No. 2	Karen Morgan, Clifton
14524	Man. U. No. 8	S. Cook, Radcliffe on Trent
11563	Man. U. No. 1	Richard Morgan, Clifton
10172	Man. U. No. 11	C. M. Frogatt, Eastwood
6863	Palace No. 10	A. Martin, Arnold
4617	Man. U. No. 10	A.W. Greatorex, Nottingham.
7751	Man. U. No. 12	Des Lane, Birmingham.
16446	Palace No. 1	Andrew Smith, Clifton
16457	Man. U. No. 5	P. R. Wayman, Gedling

19469	Palace No. 5	Mrs M. Mann, Grantham
15424	Palace No. 14	G.A. Gibson, New Ollerton
16753	Palace No. 12	I. Harrison, Hoverningham
4345	Man. U. No. 9	Mrs M. Lovett, Arnold

The winner of the 1st Prize of a Holiday for 2 in Rhodes goes to the person holding the ticket for the player who scored the first goal at Wembley. The second prize of £25 goes to the player who scored the second goal. If the game ended scoreless then the cash value of the prize would be split between the 2 goalkeepers.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The annual Player of the Year Awards will be presented at the Meadow Club on Monday 21st May in the Meadow Club (8pm). The evening will again be compered by Colin Slater and will feature a video of the seasons highlights. Tickets are now on sale from the Meadow Club priced £1.50 or £1 to Supporters Club members from the Supporters Kiosk. Don't forget to send me your vote for Player of the Year. Voting is open to anyone and the closing date is 16th May.

A.G.M.

The Supporters Club A.G.M. will be held on Thursday 31st May in the Sportsmans Suite. (8pm). The closing date of Nominations for the Committee is 17th May.

AWAY TRAVEL

Should we be fortunate enough to get to Wembley for the play-off Final full details of travel arrangements can be obtained by 'phoning 866802 or by visiting the Supporters Club Kiosk after tonights game.

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BY WAYNE JONES

THE BEST STADIUM YOU HAVE PLAYED AT:

The National Stadium in Helsinki when I made my one appearance for Wales against Finland in 1971.

FUNNIEST INCIDENT ON THE FIELD: When I was assistant to David Williams at Bristol Rovers, we played our last game of one season at Gillingham when there was nothing at stake. David hit this blistering shot which flew into the net, but bounced back out off the back stanchion. We celebrated the goal, and the Gillingham players threw the ball back to the centre circle and got ready to restart the game. But the referee was the only person in the ground who insisted that it wasn't a goal. It was quite bizarre because even the Gillingham players argued with him that it had gone in.

PICK A TEAM FROM PLAYERS YOU HAVE PLAYED WITH AT CLUB LEVEL: Dai Davies, Peter Rodrigues, Rod Thomas, Larry Lloyd, Stewart Taylor, Terry Yorath, Ronnie Reece, Leighton James, John Toshack, Frank Prince, Harold Jarman.

YOUR TIP FOR THE TOP: There are two or three players at this club who I think are capable of playing at First Division level. I am certain one of them will, and that is Dean Yates. Not only is he a very talented player, but he's also level-headed and has his feet on the ground.

FAVOURITE PLAYER IN YOUR POSITION:

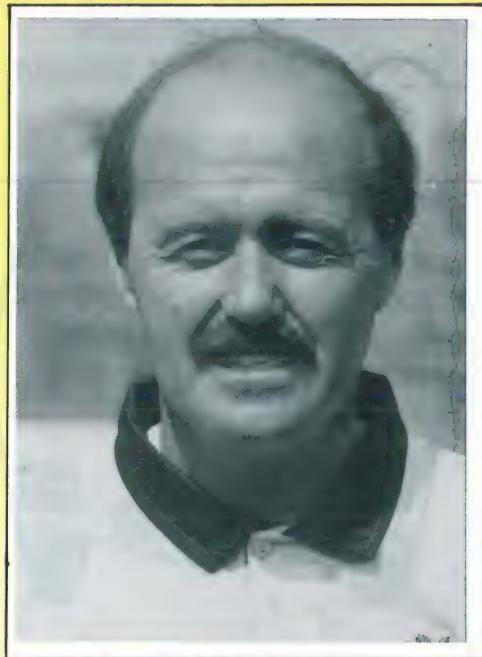
When I was playing, it would have been Johnny Giles. Today, I have a lot of admiration for Gordon Cowans.

THE LIVELIEST CHARACTER YOU HAVE MET IN FOOTBALL: Without a doubt, it has to be Adrian Thorpe. In many ways, it was a relief when he left the club, because you never knew what sort of prank he was going to play next.

DETAILS OF YOUR LEAGUE DEBUT: For Bristol Rovers against Doncaster Rovers at Eastville. We were losing 2-0 after just ten minutes, but came back to win 4-2 in the end.

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: I played for Bristol Rovers in a League Cup tie at Manchester United in 1973 and we pulled off a shock 2-1 win. To illustrate just what a marvellous achievement that was, their forward line on that particular occasion was: Willie Morgan, Brian Kidd, Bobby Charlton, George Best and Ian Storey-Moore.

YOUR WORST MOMENT ON THE PITCH: My final match against Brentford when I suffered the knee injury which finished my career prematurely. I knew something was seriously wrong as soon as I went down. It turned out to be an arthritic problem. It happened only ten days before I was due to win my second international cap for Wales.



BEST PAL IN FOOTBALL: Outside Notts County, John Rudge and David Williams are my best pals. At Notts, Gary Lund is a good friend and he is going to be my best man when I get married soon.

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY SPOT: Tahiti — I went there with a Welsh team and we stopped in what was a lovely spot for a short while.

FAVOURITE SPORTS COMMENTATOR: Hugh Johns. It had to be a Welsh one, of course.

FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER FOR SPORT: Daily Express.

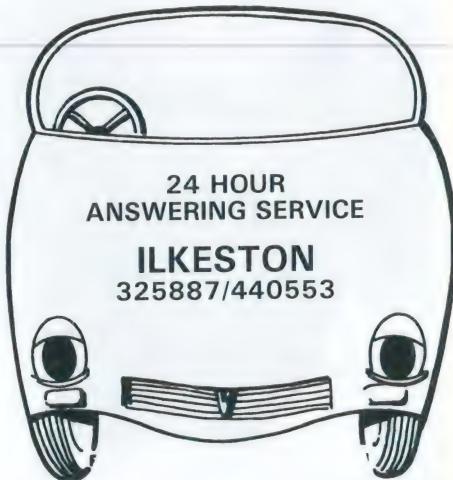
FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING: A suit. It's a pleasant change from wearing a tracksuit, because I virtually live in one of them.

WHICH TV SHOW WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO APPEAR IN: This is Your Life — you know you have really made it when Michael Aspel appears with that red book.

WHO ARE THE BEST AND WORST DRESSERS AT MEADOW LANE: The best dresser is Russell Slade because he wears some very natty gear. The worst dressers are two members of the staff who have been constantly mentioned in this section throughout the season. I'll leave you to guess who they are.

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FACTS & FIGURES

	Agg.	Average	Highest		Lowest
Birmingham City	202,866	8,820	14,278	v Reading	v Mansfield 5,139
Blackpool	93,774	4,077	8,108	v Preston N.E.	v Swansea City 1,842
Bolton W.	167,711	7,291	11,098	v Bristol City	v Reading 4,679
Brentford	130,416	5,670	7,962	v Fulham	v Bolton W. 4,537
Bristol City	264,930	11,518	19,480	v Walsall	v Wigan A. 6,365
Bristol Rovers	142,796	6,208	9,813	v Bristol City	v Preston N.E. 4,350
Bury	79,343	3,449	6,511	v Bolton W.	v Northampton 2,327
Cardiff City	83,869	3,646	8,350	v Swansea City	v Crewe Alex. 2,086
Chester City	56,568	2,460	4,210	v Tranmere R.	v Leyton O. 1,722
Crewe Alexandra	92,177	4,001	6,900	v Tranmere R.	v Northampton 2,622
Fulham	103,138	4,484	7,141	v Leyton O.	v Walsall 2,652
Huddersfield	129,295	5,621	8,438	v Bury	v Chester City 3,514
Mansfield Town	75,106	3,265	6,191	v Rotherham U.	v Shrewsbury T. 2,230
Northampton	73,214	3,183	4,346	v Birmingham	v Mansfield T 2,119
Notts County	141,962	6,172	10,142	v Bristol Rovers	v Brentford 4,586
Leyton Orient	100,397	4,365	7,273	v Bristol City	v Huddersfield 3,040
Preston N.E.	145,180	6,312	9,135	v Bolton W.	v L. Orient 4,480
Reading	94,100	4,091	6,147	v Bristol Rovers	v Wigan Ath. 3,099
Rotherham Utd	128,454	5,584	7,750	v Bristol Rovers	v Northampton 3,420
Shrewsbury	80,991	3,290	5,319	v Preston N.E.	v Wigan Ath. 2,297
Swansea City	96,663	4,202	12,224	v Cardiff City	v Walsall 2,474
Tranmere Rovers	166,023	7,218	12,723	v Bristol Rovers	v Rotherham U. 4,912
Walsall	92,785	4,032	6,036	v Birmingham	v Brentford 2,903
Wigan Athletic	63,682	2,768	6,850	v Bolton W.	v Reading 2,029

FIVE HIGHEST CROWDS

1	Bristol City v Walsall	19,4801	Chester City v Leyton Orient	1,722
2	Bristol City v Huddersfield	17,7912	Chester City v Cardiff City	1,886
3	Bristol City v Bristol Rovers	17,4323	Chester City v Birmingham City	1,882
4	Bristol City v Fulham	16,1904	Chester City v Reading	1,978
5	Bristol City v Tranmere Rovers	14,3765	Blackpool v Swansea City	1,842

DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol R.	46	26	15	5	71	35	93
Bristol C.	46	27	10	9	78	40	91
Notts C.	46	75	12	9	73	63	87
Tranmere	46	23	11	12	85	49	80
Bury	46	21	11	14	70	49	74
Bolton	46	18	15	13	58	48	69
Birmingham	46	18	17	16	60	59	66
Huddersfield	46	17	14	15	61	82	65
Rotherham	46	17	13	18	71	82	64
Reading	46	15	19	12	57	53	64
Shrewsbury	46	15	16	15	58	64	63
Crewe A.	46	15	17	14	56	53	57
Brentford	46	18	7	21	86	66	51
L. Orient	46	16	10	20	52	56	58
Mansfield	46	16	7	23	50	58	56
Chester	46	13	16	18	43	55	54
Swansea	46	14	12	20	45	63	54
Wigan Ath.	46	13	14	19	48	64	53
Preston	46	14	10	22	65	79	52
Fulham	46	12	15	19	55	66	51
Cardiff	46	12	14	20	51	70	50
North'ton	46	11	14	21	51	68	47
Blackpool	46	10	18	20	49	73	45
Walsall	46	9	14	23	40	72	41

HAT-TRICKS

DEAN HOLDSWORTH –	Brentford v Rotherham (H)	6.1.90
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BOB TAYLOR –	Bristol C v Swansea C (A)	20.3.90
BOB TAYLOR –	Bristol C v Crewe (H)	10.4.90
CARL SAUNDERS –	Bristol R v Wigan (H)	3.3.90
LIAM ROBINSON –	Bury v Tranmere (A)	2.12.89
DARREN FOREMAN –	Crewe v Walsall (H)	16.4.90
CRAIG MASKELL –	Huddersfield v Cardiff (A)	17.3.90
STEVE WILKINSON –	Mansfield v Birmingham (H)	3.4.90
BRIAN MOONEY –	Preston v Chester (H)	23.8.89
STEVE HARPER –	Preston v Cardiff (H)	24.2.90
TREVOR SENIOR –	Reading v Swansea (A)	23.9.89
BOBBY WILLIAMSON –	Rotherham v Cardiff (H)	30.9.89
BOBBY WILLIAMSON –	Rotherham v Birmingham (H)	7.10.89
JOHN McGINLAY –	Shrewsbury v Huddersfield (H)	7.4.90
PAUL CHALMERS –	Swansea v Fulham (H)	10.2.90
MARK HILDITCH –	Wigan v Mansfield (H)	1.1.90
DAVE THOMPSON –	Wigan v Shrewsbury (A)	20.3.90

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BLACKPOOL	Garner 8, Eyes 7
BOLTON	Philliskirk 19, Reeves 11
BRENTFORD	Holdsworth 24, Blissett 11, Taylor 27, Shelton 9
BRISTOL C.	Robinson 17, Robinson 17, Robinson 17, Hoyland 16
BRISTOL R.	Taylor 27, Shelton 9, Pike 17, Griffith 8, Dale 8, Abel 7
BURY	Sussex 9, Hignett 8, Walker 13, Milton 9, Maskell 15, Smith 7, Wilkinson 15, Christie 13, Barnes 18, Collins 8, Johnson 18, Lund 9, Cooper 11, Caster 7, Joyce 11, Harper 10, Senior 14, Moran 11, Williamson 19, Mandence 14, McGinlay 22, Moyes 8, Raynor 6, Melville 6, Murr 23, Malkin 17, Rimmer 10, Bertschin 3, Griffiths 7, Hilditch 7
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ATTENDANCES HIT EIGHT YEAR HIGH

Gates in the Barclays League have reached their highest level for eight years. Approaching the last Saturday of the current campaign, just under 19 million people have watched games so far this season, compared to 18,477,565 last year. The indications are that the total figure will show an increase of over 900,000 on 1988/89.

According to Jack Rollin's 'Round-up' in The Sunday Telegraph, the breakdown for Barclays League attendances during the first thirty seven weeks of the season is as shown below:-

		Aggregate	Matches	Average	
Division One	1988/89	7,361,368	362	20,335	
	1989/90	7,666,578	370	20,720	+ 1.9%
Division Two	1988/89	5,723,905	540	10,600	
	1989/90	6,702,188	538	12,458	+ 17.5%
Division Three	1988/89	2,962,164	538	5,506	
	1989/90	2,713,349	540	5,034	- 8.6%
Division Four	1988/89	1,732,061	540	3,208	
	1989/90	1,845,097	540	3,417	+ 6.5%
Total	1988/89	17,779,498	1,980	8,980	
	1989/90	18,927,212	1,987	9,526	

TOTAL LEAGUE ATTENDANCES 1981/82 — 1989/90

1981/82	20,006,961
1982/83	18,766,158
1983/84	18,358,631
1984/85	17,849,835
1985/86	16,498,868
1986/87	17,383,032
1987/88	17,968,887
1988/89	18,477,565
1989/90	*18,927,212

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MANAGER OF THE MONTH AWARDS 1989/90

August —	Billy McEwan (Rotherham Utd)
September —	John King (Tranmere Rovers)
October —	Phil Neal (Bolton Wanderers)
November —	Billy McEwan (Rotherham Utd)
December —	Neil Warnock (Notts County)
January —	Joe Jordan (Bristol City)
February —	John King (Tranmere Rovers)
March —	Gerry Francis (Bristol Rovers)
April —	Neil Warnock (Notts County)

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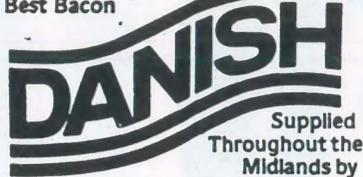
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